

## CLAIMS

I claim:

1. A cosmetic or pharmaceutical or dermatological composition containing an effective amount of decorin dissolved or dispersed for topical administration in a cosmetically or dermatologically or pharmaceutically acceptable vehicle.
2. The composition of claim 1, wherein said decorin is naturally derived or produced by recombinant means.
3. The composition of claim 2, wherein said decorin comprises the human mature core protein set forth as amino acids 1-329 of Sequence ID 6.
4. The composition of claim 3, wherein said human decorin core protein is present in an amount between about 0.5 .mu.g/ml and about 5,000 .mu.g/ml.
5. The composition of claim 4, wherein said decorin is present in an amount between about 5 .mu.g/ml to about 500 .mu.g/ml.
6. A method of treating the skin of a human to combat aging, comprising applying to the skin a cosmetic or dermatological or pharmaceutical composition containing an effective amount of decorin dissolved or dispersed in a cosmetically or pharmaceutically acceptable vehicle.
7. The method of claim 6 wherein the composition comprises decorin naturally derived or produced by recombinant means.
8. The method of claim 7 wherein the composition comprises the human decorin core protein set forth as amino acids 1-329 of Sequence ID 6.
9. The method of claim 8 wherein the composition comprises decorin in an amount from about 0.5 .mu.g/ml to about 5,000 .mu.g/ml.
10. The method of claim 9 wherein the composition comprises decorin in an amount from about 5 .mu.g/ml to about 500 .mu.g/ml.